

10 June 1982
Letter to Pat Schroeder from Barb. Colby
Carolyn Reagan & Betty V. re her 18 May statement
to Congress re retirement & survivor benefits.
P.S. Also a thank you letter to staff member of
Mrs. Schroeder

10 June 1982

The Honorable Patricia Schroeder
US House of Representatives
US Congress
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congresswoman Schroeder:

We should like to thank you for your recent efforts on behalf of the divorced and widowed spouses of CIA officers. Your supporting statement on May 18 emphasized an important point that a State court decision could provide that a nondeserving wife would not receive a share of the retirement or survivor's benefits. The argument that nondeserving wives could take half of what a man had earned through a long and honorable career has been a stumbling block to acceptance of the concept that dependent wives have earned retirement protection. Your cogent argument, we believe, cannot help but earn support for this much needed amendment to the CIA retirement system.

Many women can be grateful to you for your efforts on their behalf--the spouses and divorced spouses of Federal civilian employees. When the Civil Service Act is amended--we are sure it will be--it will be changed in great part through your efforts. Such action will demonstrate to this large number of loyal American citizens that their contributions to their families, their Government, and their country are recognized. They have earned honorably a dignified and secure old age.

We are grateful, too, for the encouragement and guidance given to us by your staff member, Linda Ittner. Her knowledgeable advice provided from an insider's viewpoint has helped us to present our proposal in an appropriate and--so far--very effective way. Thank you for encouraging her to give so generously of her time and interest to this cause, which is crucial to women who have given their country lifetimes of service.

Sincerely,

Barbara Colby

N. Carolyn Reagan

Betty Villemarette